AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 8, in its entirety and replace it with the following new paragraphs:

Fig. 2 shows the nucleotide sequence of modB-XS (modified SalI/XbaI fragment) with a number of unique restriction sites (SEQ ID NO:2). See example 1.

Fig. 3: Synthetic DNA fragments further described in example 1 (SEQ ID NO:3-SEQ ID NO:8).

Please delete the paragraphs beginning at page 23, line 16, in their entirety and replace them with the following new paragraphs:

The five fragments obtained were (see figure 3):

(i) a 410 bp *SalI-SphII I* fragment (SEQ ID NO:3)

(ii) a 220 bp *SphI-BsrGI* fragment (SEQ ID NO:4)

(iii) a 190 bp *BsrGI-KpnI* fragment (SEQ ID NO:5)

(iv) a 320 bp *KpnI-XbaI* fragment (SEQ ID NO:6)

For construction of the modBM gene a modified *KpnI-XbaI* fragment was designed (SEQ ID NO:7).

All sub fragments were cloned in vector pCRII-TOPO (Invitrogen) according to the instructions supplied by the manufacturer.

For combining the sub-fragments, a vector was created with an optimized polylinker (*SalI-SphI-BsrGI-KpnI-XbaI*). For this purpose a synthetic polylinker (SEQ ID NO:8) was designed and cloned into the pCRII-TOPO vector. Later the polylinker fragment was inserted in the *BssHI* sites of plasmid pBluescript SK II, resulting in pSK-MCS.